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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 000329

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2019  
TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#) [GM](#)  
SUBJECT: GERMANY TO STAY MUM ON MANAS

REF: STATE 23954

Classified By: POLITICAL MINISTER COUNSELOR JEFF RATHKE. REASONS: 1.4 (B) AND (D).

(C) Drawing on reftel points, Post has informed MFA NATO Office Director Bernhard Schlagheck, MFA Deputy Afghanistan Task Force Director Thomas Zahneisen and MOD Political-Military Affairs Branch Chief Col. Bernd Schuett about U.S. views and plans concerning the Manas Air Base. They appreciated the status update and had no problem with our request that Germany minimize its public comments on the possibility of discussions with the Kyrgyz about a continuation of the U.S. presence. Up to now, German officials have, in fact, tended to say little, if anything, in public about the issue.  
Koenig